

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a downstream management message at a client termination device, the client termination device comprising a data buffer, the downstream management message comprising one or more bandwidth allocation elements and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC);

storing bandwidth allocation information based upon selected ones of the bandwidth allocation elements in the data buffer; ~~and~~

outputting the stored bandwidth allocation information from the data buffer in response to detecting a validation of the CRC;

storing message header data in one or more first locations in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data buffer, the message header data being based upon a message header in the downstream management message;

storing the bandwidth allocation information in subsequent locations in the FIFO data buffer;

storing the message header data in the FIFO data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

advancing the write pointer to one or more of the subsequent locations;

storing the bandwidth allocation information in the subsequent locations; and

upon completion of storing the bandwidth information in the subsequent locations, storing data in the FIFO data buffer between the first locations and the subsequent locations.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

associating one or more bandwidth allocation elements with the client termination device based upon service identifier information; and

for each bandwidth allocation element associated with the client termination device, storing bandwidth allocation information based upon the bandwidth allocation element in the data buffer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
sequentially storing bandwidth allocation information based upon one or more bandwidth allocation elements in a first-in-first-out data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

advancing the write pointer after storing bandwidth allocation information for each bandwidth allocation element; and

resetting the write pointer to an initial position upon detection of an invalid CRC in the downstream management message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more upstream bandwidth allocation elements comprise at least one data grant bandwidth allocation element and at least one data grant pending bandwidth element.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the method further comprises scheduling an upstream transmission for a bandwidth allocation element associated with a data grant bandwidth allocation element message upon detecting a validation of the CRC.

Claims 6 and 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1, wherein the method further comprises storing statistical information derived from the bandwidth allocation elements between the first locations and the subsequent locations.

9. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:
- logic to receive a downstream management message at a client termination device, the downstream management message comprising one or more bandwidth allocation elements and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC);
 - a data buffer to store bandwidth allocation information based upon selected ones of the bandwidth allocation elements; and
 - logic to output the stored bandwidth allocation information from the buffer in response to detecting a validation of the CRC;
 - logic to store message header data in one or more first locations in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data buffer, the message header data being based upon a message header in the downstream management message;
 - logic to store the bandwidth allocation information in subsequent locations in the FIFO data buffer;
 - logic to store the message header data in the FIFO data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;
 - logic to advance the write pointer to one or more of the subsequent locations;
 - logic to store the bandwidth allocation information in the subsequent locations;
 - and
 - logic to store data in the FIFO data buffer between the first locations and the subsequent locations upon completion of storing the bandwidth allocation information in the subsequent locations.
10. (Original) The device of claim 9, the device further comprising:
- logic to associate one or more bandwidth allocation elements with the client termination device based upon service identifier information; and
 - logic to store bandwidth allocation information in the data buffer for each bandwidth allocation element associated with the client termination device.

11. (Original) The device of claim 9, the device further comprising:
- logic to sequentially store bandwidth allocation information for the selected bandwidth allocation elements in a first-in-first-out data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;
 - logic to advance the write pointer after storing bandwidth allocation information for each bandwidth allocation element; and
 - logic to reset the write pointer to an initial position upon detection of an invalid CRC in the downstream management message.

12. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein the one or more bandwidth allocation elements comprise at least one data grant bandwidth allocation element and at least one data grant pending bandwidth allocation element.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, the device further comprising logic to schedule an upstream transmission for a bandwidth allocation element associated with a data grant bandwidth allocation element message upon a validation of the CRC.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 9, wherein the device further comprises logic to store statistical information derived from the bandwidth allocation elements between the first locations and the subsequent locations.

17. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
- a host processing system;
 - a data bus coupled to the host processing system; and
 - a client termination device coupled to the data bus, the client termination device comprising:
 - a processing circuit; and
 - a receiving circuit comprising:

logic to receive a downstream management message from transmission medium coupled to a client termination device, the downstream management message comprising one or more bandwidth allocation elements and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC);

a data buffer to store bandwidth allocation information based upon selected ones of the bandwidth allocation elements; ~~and~~

logic to output the stored bandwidth allocation information from the data buffer to the processing circuit in response to detecting a validation of the CRC;

logic to store message header data in one or more first locations in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data buffer, the message header data being based upon a message header in the downstream management message;

logic to store the bandwidth allocation information in subsequent locations in the FIFO data buffer;

logic to store the message header data in the FIFO data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

logic to advance the write pointer to one or more of the subsequent locations;

logic to store the bandwidth allocation information in the subsequent locations; and

logic to store data in the FIFO data buffer between the first locations and the subsequent locations upon completion of storing the bandwidth information in the subsequent locations.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the system further comprises logic to initiate a DMA transaction on the data bus in response to the processing circuit.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the system further comprises a cable modem termination system coupled to the client termination device by a transmission medium.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the receiving circuit further comprises:

logic to associate one or more bandwidth allocation elements with the client termination device based upon service identifier information; and

logic to store bandwidth allocation information in the data buffer for each bandwidth allocation element associated with the client termination device.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the receiving circuit further comprises:

logic to sequentially store bandwidth allocation information based upon the selected bandwidth allocation elements in a first-in-first-out data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

logic to advance the write pointer after storing bandwidth allocation information for each bandwidth allocation element; and

logic to reset the write pointer to an initial position upon detection of an invalid CRC in the downstream management message.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the one or more bandwidth allocation elements comprise at least one data grant bandwidth allocation element and at least one data grant pending bandwidth allocation element.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the receiving circuit further comprises logic to schedule an upstream transmission for each bandwidth allocation element associated with a data grant bandwidth allocation element upon detecting a validation of the CRC.

Claims 24 and 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[25]] 17, wherein the receiving circuit further comprises logic to store statistical information derived from the bandwidth allocation elements between the first locations and the subsequent locations.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a downstream management message at a client termination device, the client termination device comprising a data buffer, the downstream management message comprising one or more bandwidth allocation elements and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC);

means for storing bandwidth allocation information based upon selected ones of the bandwidth allocation elements in the data buffer; and

means for outputting the stored bandwidth allocation information from the buffer in response to detecting a validation of the CRC;

means for storing message header data in one or more first locations in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) data buffer, the message header data being based upon a message header in the downstream management message;

means for storing the bandwidth allocation information in subsequent locations in the FIFO data buffer;

means for storing the message header data in the FIFO data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

means for advancing the write pointer to one or more of the subsequent locations;

means for storing the bandwidth allocation information in the subsequent locations; and

means for upon completion of storing the bandwidth information in the subsequent locations, storing data in the FIFO data buffer between the first locations and the subsequent locations.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, the apparatus further comprising:

means for associating one or more bandwidth allocation elements with the client termination device based upon service identifier information; and

means for storing bandwidth allocation information in the data buffer for each bandwidth allocation element associated with the client termination device.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, the apparatus further comprising:

means for sequentially storing bandwidth allocation information based upon one or more bandwidth allocation elements in a first-in-first-out data buffer at locations indicated by a write pointer;

means for advancing the write pointer after storing bandwidth allocation information for each bandwidth allocation message; and

means for resetting the write pointer to an initial position upon detection of an invalid CRC in the downstream management message.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more upstream bandwidth allocation elements comprise at least one data grant bandwidth allocation element and at least one data grant pending bandwidth allocation element.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for scheduling an upstream transmission for a bandwidth allocation element associated with a data grant bandwidth allocation element message upon detecting a validation of the CRC.

Claim 32 (Cancelled)